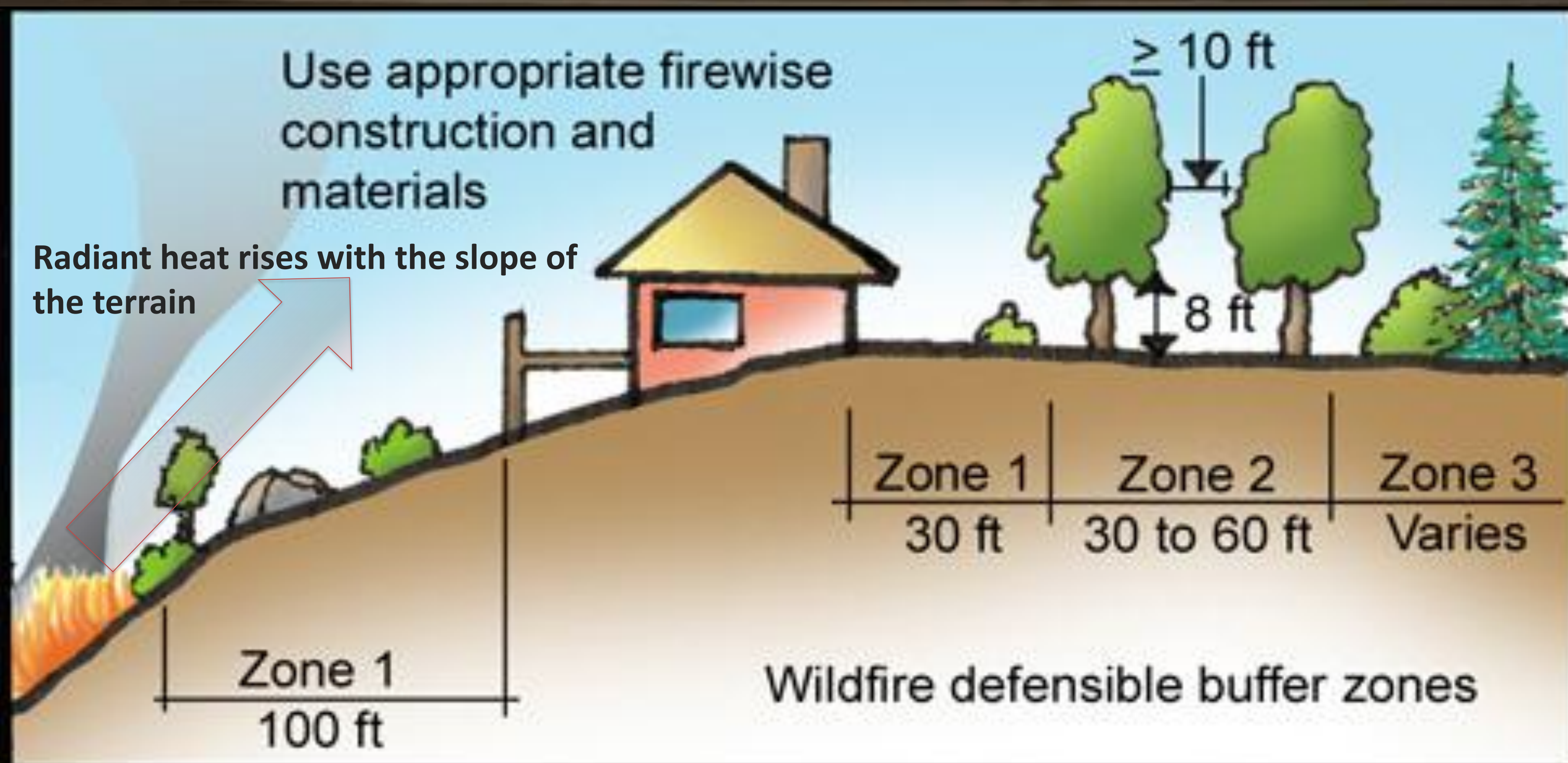


MONTANA STRONG

BUILDING MONTANA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE TOGETHER

WILDFIRES



- ☐ Make evacuation plans with family members. Include several options with an outside meeting place and contact person. Practice regularly.
- ☐ Keep a 3 day emergency kit (Go-Bag) ready to go at all times. Have digital copies of important documents on a thumb-drive in your kit.
- ☐ Create defensible space to separate your home from flammable vegetation and materials.
 - **Zone 1:** A minimum of 30 feet is needed for firefighters to protect a structure from wildfire. On a slope, increase the distance to 100 feet downhill of the structure. Use low growing and low flammability plants, spaced apart from each other. Remove dead material.
 - **Zone 2:** Deciduous trees and shrubs and widely-spaced conifers may be used in Zone 2. Remove branches within 8 feet of the ground (but no more than 30 percent of the height of the tree) and space trees so that crowns remain at least 10 feet apart at maturity. Remove tree limbs and other materials that allow fire to burn into the tree crown.
 - **Zone 3:** Manage this zone to maintain forest stand health and other landowner objectives. Limit number of dead trees but save some for wildlife (1 or 2 dead trees per acre).
- ☐ Store all important papers in a fireproof container or keep copies at another location.
- ☐ Adhere to all local fire and building codes and weed abatement ordinances.
- ☐ Keep all trees and shrub limbs trimmed so they do not come into contact with electrical wires or overhang your chimney. Do not trim around live power lines yourself, call a professional.
- ☐ Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying branches.
- ☐ Stack firewood away from your home and other buildings.
- ☐ Keep roof surfaces clear of pine needles, leaves and debris at all times.
- ☐ Install spark arresters for each chimney.
- ☐ Clean chimneys and check and maintain spark arresters twice a year.
- ☐ Keep rain gutters clear of debris at all times.
- ☐ Use approved fire resistant materials when building, renovating or retrofitting structures.
- ☐ Install electrical lines underground if possible.
- ☐ Be sure your house numbers show clearly from the street, both day and night.
- ☐ Store combustible or flammable materials in approved containers.

REMEMBER THE SIX “P’S”

KEEP THESE SIX “P’S” READY TO GO IN CASE IMMEDIATE EVACUATION IS REQUIRED:

PEOPLE: FAMILY AND PETS

PAPERS: PHONE NUMBERS & IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

PICTURES: IRREPLACEABLE MEMORABILIA

PRESCRIPTIONS: MEDICATIONS, VITAMINS, EYEGLASSES, ETC.

PC: COMPUTER, HARD DRIVES, AND DISKS

“PLASTIC”: CREDIT CARDS, ATM CARDS AND ALL CASH

- ☐ Turn on a battery operated radio to get latest emergency information.
- ☐ If you have a ladder, prop it against the house so you and firefighters have access to roof.
- ☐ If hoses and adequate water are available set them up. Fill buckets with water.
- ☐ Remove combustible materials from the area surrounding your house. (Lawn chairs, tables, etc.)
- ☐ Turn a light on in each room for visibility in case of smoke.
- ☐ Close all doors and windows, but do not lock them.
- ☐ Open or take down flammable drape and curtains.
- ☐ Close all venetian blinds and non-flammable window coverings.
- ☐ Move upholstered furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- ☐ Be ready to evacuate all family members and pets when requested to do so.
- ☐ Turn off air conditioning/air circulation systems.
- ☐ Detach electrical garage doors. Back in your car and leave the keys in the ignition.
- ☐ Secure your pets if possible.

MONTANA STRONG

BUILDING MONTANA’S DISASTER RESILIENCE TOGETHER

WILDFIRES

- ☐ Check with fire officials before attempting to return to your home.
- ☐ Use caution when re-entering a burned area - flare-ups can occur.
- ☐ Check grounds for hot spots smoldering stumps and vegetation. Use your buckets of water.
- ☐ Check the roof and exterior areas for sparks and embers.
- ☐ Check the attic and throughout the house for hidden burning sparks and embers.
- ☐ Continue to check for problem areas for several days.
- ☐ Contact 911 if any danger is perceived.
- ☐ If burning outside your home was extensive, watch for soil erosion.
- ☐ Consult local experts on the best way to restore and replant your land with fire safe landscaping.